

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198152  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-01  
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /033 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B - MR. TORYLA:LEE  
APPROVED BY ARA/AND/P - MR. FULLER  
SCS/SCA - MR. GISE

-----110995 200133Z /73

P 192258Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CASC, BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS: SANTA CRUZ

1. DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY AND WELFARE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SANTA CRUZ, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF REPORTS OF POSSIBLE CONTINUED EXTORTION ATTEMPTS, THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF COL. CAMACHO IN THE AREA, AND THE ABSENCE OF JUDGES TO HEAR CASES. WE ARE ALSO WORRIED THAT CASES INVOLVING AMERICANS MIGHT BE PREJUDICED AS A RESULT OF LOCAL NEWS STORIES ALLEGING THAT AMERICANS' PROTESTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF THREE JUDGES IN SANTA CRUZ.

2. HOW DO BOLIVIANS PLAN TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF LACK OF JUDGES TO HEAR CASES IN SANTA CRUZ?

3. DOES EMBASSY FEEL IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO REQUEST TRANSFER OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND CHANGE OF VENUE FROM SANTA CRUZ TO LA PAZ IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE PREJUDICE TO THEIR  
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CASES? WHAT WOULD BE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES?

4. DURING MEETING WITH MRS. SHIE TODAY, DEPARTMENT LEARNED THAT CONGRESSMAN WOLFE MET PRIVATELY WITH EDWARD CUNNINGHAM IN SANTA CRUZ. MRS. SHIE REPORTED THAT HER SON REFUSED TO

DIVULGE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONVERSATION AND SAID ONLY THAT

HE HAD MADE SOME SORT OF "DEAL" WITH THE CONGRESSMAN.  
MRS. SHIE IS CONCERNED THAT HER SON MAY BE ACTING UNWISELY  
AND TO HIS OWN DETRIMENT. DOES THE EMBASSY HAVE ANY  
INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER?

5. MRS. SHIE ALSO REPORTED THAT CONSULAR AGENT MCKINNEY  
HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SHE HAD REACHED THE LIMITS OF  
HER EFFECTIVENESS. APPARENTLY MRS. MCKINNEY FEARS THAT IF  
SHE PRESSES TOO HARD SHE WILL MEET RESISTANCE FROM THE  
LOCAL OFFICIALS AND MAY ENDANGER HER OWN POSITION AND THAT  
OF HER HUSBAND WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERN-  
MENT. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO BRING THIS TO THE EMBASSY'S  
ATTENTION SO IT MAY BE AWARE OF HER POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS  
IN MAKING EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS AT THIS TIME. IF THIS  
IS TRUE EMBASSY WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE  
OBSERVATION OF THE SITUATION AND BE PREPARED TO OFFER  
MRS. MCKINNEY SUFFICIENT BACKSTOPPING AND REINFORCEMENTS.

6. THE EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT DURING HER  
MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT T. HENNE-  
MEYER MRS. SHIE WAS QUITE FULSOME IN HER PRAISE OF THE WORK  
BEING DONE BY OFFICERS NOT ONLY HANDLING PRISONER PROBLEMS  
BUT THE FULL RANGE OF CONSULAR WORK. SHE STATED THAT SHE  
HAD NOT REALLY FULLY APPRECIATED BEFORE AND DOUBTED  
WHETHER MANY OF THE OTHER PARENTS HAD THE TREMENDOUS  
CONSULAR WORK THAT WAS BEING HANDLED BY SO FEW OFFICERS. VANCE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MR. TORYLA:LEE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009